

## Obituary

The members and friends of the Georgian-German Science Bridge (GGSB) mourn the death of one of its founding members,

### Prof. Mikheil Nioradze

who passed away on March 5, 2024 in Tbilisi.

Mikheil Nioradze was the successor of the previous directors of the High Energy Physics Institute of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (HEPI-TSU), Academicians Prof. Nodar Amaglobeli and Prof. Albert Tavkhelidze. In the 1990's, he initiated the cooperation of HEPI-TSU with Prof. Otto Schult of the Institute for Nuclear Physics (IKP) of Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZJ) in Germany and he has played an eminent role ever since. The HEPI-TSU group became a member of the international ANKE collaboration, building and scientifically exploiting the novel detector system at the recently commissioned Cooler Synchrotron (COSY). Mikheil and staff members frequently came to Jülich for installation of hardware and measurements at ANKE. In 1998, he signed a first Memorandum-of-Understanding with IKP to formalize the HEPI-TSU – IKP/FZJ cooperation. Starting in the early 2000's, he sent students to COSY for Master and PhD theses, including a common Cotutelle PhD between TSU and the University of Cologne. In 2004, the GGSB was founded during the first workshop (Caucasian-German School and Workshop in Hadron Physics, CGSWHP2004) at TSU that was co-organized by him. Over the next 20 years, he helped to enlarge and develop the GGSB, in particular with a young scientist's returner program, called SMART|Labs, which started with a previous student of him, David Mchedlishvili, as scientific leader of the first SMART|EDM\_Lab at TSU. Looking back, we are very grateful for our extremely successful cooperation with Mikheil Nioradze for almost three decades – first in the ANKE-, then in the PAX- and finally in the JEDI collaboration at COSY – with 6

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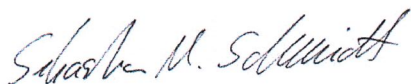
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PhD and 11 Master theses, with the exchange of about 50 senior scientists and students in the framework of internships and DAAD programs, and with more than 30 common scientific papers.

We are deeply sad that Mikheil will not be with us any more later this year when we will celebrate the 20-year anniversary of GGSB in Tbilisi (GGSB'24) with a Science Fest. We miss him and will keep him in lasting memory.

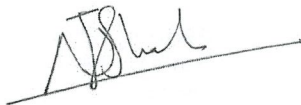
Jülich/Rosendorf, March 8, 2024



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